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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents which are listed on Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit B**) and are also listed below.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, this Information Disclosure Statement should be entered and considered.

The above-identified application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of Serial No. 10/000,280 (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003-0045536-A1), filed November 30, 2001. Copies of the documents listed below as references 1-46 and 50-110 have previously been submitted to, or cited by the U.S. Patent Office in connection with Serial No. 10/000,280. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the previously submitted documents are not provided. A copy of reference 48 is not provided because the disclosure of this reference is substantively cumulative with the disclosure of the reference listed below as item 47, a copy of which is provided herewith. A copy of each of the references listed below as items 47 and 49 is attached hereto as **Exhibits 1 and 2**.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a), applicants have listed on Form PTO-1449 copending U.S. applications and have listed them below

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as references 102-110. Applicants also enclose copies of the claims as allowed or as currently pending in each of the copending U.S. applications as **Exhibits 3-10**. The claims for U.S. Application No. 10/010,092 are the same as those originally filed in that application. Consequently, a copy of the claims is not enclosed.

Applicants also disclose to the Examiner that they are filing concurrently with the subject application another continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/000,280, which will bear attorney Docket No. "60390-IB". Applicants at this time do not have the Serial No. for the concurrently filed continuation application, but respectfully request that the Examiner consider the concurrently filed continuation application and enter it on a Notice of References Cited which will be forwarded to applicants.

For the convenience of the Examiner, applicants point out that references 1, 24, 25, 32, 41, 42, 51-57, 74, 77, 79, 84, 85, 95 and 97 were cited in a corresponding PCT International Search Report for PCT International Publication No. WO 99/62518; reference 2 was cited in a corresponding PCT International Search Report for PCT International Publication No. WO 01/39777; references 68 and 73 were cited by the U.S. Patent Office in connection with U.S. Application No. 09/454,075; and references 35 and 83 were cited in the corresponding PCT Preliminary Examination Report for PCT International Publication No. WO 99/62518. A copy of the aforementioned search reports can be

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found with the copy of the PCT International Publication No. WO 99/62518 submitted in connection with U.S. Serial No. 10/000,280, and with the copy of PCT International Publication No. WO 01/39777 submitted as Exhibit 1. A copy of the PCT Preliminary Examination Report for PCT International Publication No. WO 99/62518 is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

1. U.S. Patent No. 3,037,980, issued June 5, 1962, Hitchings, G. H. et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 3,910,913, issued October 7, 1975, Kim, et al.;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,208,240, issued May 4, 1993, Peet et al.;
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,409,930, issued April 25, 1995, Spada, A. P. et al.;
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,516,894, issued May 14, 1996, Reppert, S. M.;
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,580,870, issued December 3, 1996, Barker, A. J. et al.;
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,639,913, issued June 17, 1997, Lidor et al.;
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,646,156, issued July 8, 1997, Jacobson,

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et al.;

9. U.S. Patent No. 5,681,941, issued October 28, 1997, Cook, P. D. et al.;
10. U.S. Patent No. 5,710,158, issued January 20, 1998, Myers, M. R. et al.;
11. U.S. Patent No. 5,714,493, issued February 3, 1998, Myers, M. R. et al.;
12. U.S. Patent No. 5,721,237, issued February 24, 1998, Myers, M. R. et al.;
13. U.S. Patent No. 5,747,498, issued May 5, 1998, Schnur, R. C. et al.;
14. U.S. Patent No. 5,780,450, issued July 14, 1998, Shade, D. L.;
15. U.S. Patent No. 5,780,481, issued July 14, 1998, Jacobson, et al.;
16. U.S. Patent No. 5,834,609, issued November 10, 1998, Horne, D. A. et al.;
17. U.S. Patent No. 5,877,218, issued March 2, 1999, Herzig et al.;

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18. U.S. Patent No. 5,877,221, issued March 2, 1999, Cohen et al.;
19. U.S. Patent No. 5,880,159, issued March 9, 1999, Herzig et al.;
20. U.S. Patent No. 5,914,349, issued June 22, 1999, Cohen et al.;
21. U.S. Patent No. 5,962,458, issued October 5, 1999, Lohmann, et al.;
22. U.S. Patent No. 5,994,408, issued November 30, 1999, Cohen et al.;
23. U.S. Patent No. 6,103,899, issued August 15, 2000, Horne, D. A. et al.;
24. PCT International Publication No. WO 93/20078, published October 14, 1993;
25. PCT International Publication No. WO 94/13676, published June 23, 1994;
26. PCT International Publication No. WO 94/17090, published August 4, 1994;

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27. PCT International Publication No. WO 94/19349, published September 1, 1994;
28. PCT International Publication No. WO 94/24136, published October 27, 1994;
29. PCT International Publication No. WO 95/11681, published May 4, 1995;
30. PCT International Publication No. WO 95/18617, published July 13, 1995;
31. PCT International Publication No. WO 95/19774, published July 27, 1995;
32. PCT International Publication No. WO 95/19970, published July 27, 1995;
33. PCT International Publication No. WO 95/20597, published August 3, 1995;
34. PCT International Publication No. WO 96/19478, published June 27, 1996;
35. PCT International Publication No. WO 97/02266, published January 23, 1997;
36. PCT International Publication No. WO 97/05138, published

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37. PCT International Publication No. WO 97/33879, published September 18, 1997;
38. PCT International Publication No. WO 98/07726, published February 26, 1998;
39. PCT International Publication No. WO 98/08382, published March 5, 1998;
40. PCT International Publication No. WO 98/22465, published May 28, 1998;
41. PCT International Publication No. WO 98/29397, published July 9, 1998;
42. PCT International Publication No. WO 98/57651, published December 23, 1998;
43. PCT International Publication No. WO 99/06053, published February 11, 1999;
44. PCT International Publication No. WO 99/33815, published July 8, 1999;
45. PCT International Publication No. WO 99/42093, published August 26, 1999;

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46. PCT International Publication No. WO 99/62518, published December 9, 1999;
47. PCT International Publication No. WO 01/39777, published June 7, 2001 (**Exhibit 1**);
48. PCT International Publication No. WO 02/057267, published July 25, 2002;
49. PCT International Publication No. WO 03/048120, published June 12, 2003 (**Exhibit 2**);
50. European Patent Application No. EP 322 242 A2, published June 28, 1989;
51. European Patent Application No. EP 0 514 540 A1, published November 25, 1992;
52. European Patent Application No. EP 0 682 027 A1, published November 15, 1995;
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102. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2002-0028782-A1, published March 7, 2002, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 3 - claims only**);
103. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2002-0058667-A1, published May 16, 2002, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 4 - claims only**);
104. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2003-0036545-A1,

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published February 20, 2003, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 5 - claims only**);

105. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2002-0094974-A1, published July 18, 2002, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 6 - claims only**);

106. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2003-0073708-A1, published April 17, 2003, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 7 - claims only**);

107. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/454,074, filed December 2, 1999, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 8 - claims only**);

108. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/454,075, filed December 2, 1999, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 9 - claims only**);

109. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/010,092, filed November 30, 2001, Castelhana et al.; and

110. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US-2003-0045536-A1, published March 6, 2003, Castelhana et al. (**Exhibit 10 - claims only**).

Applicants request that the Examiner review the references and make them of record in the subject application.

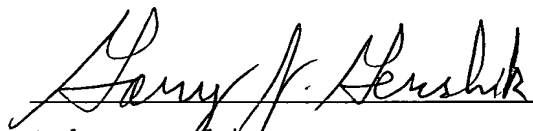


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If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary J. Gershik", written over a horizontal line.

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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>		<b>U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office</b>			Atty. Docket No. <b>60390-1A/JPW/GJG/JBC</b>		Serial No. <b>Not Yet Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)					Applicants: <b>Arlindo Castelhana et al.</b>			
					Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>		Group	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate		
		3 0 3 7 9 8 0	6/5/62	Hitchings, G.H. et al.;					
		3 9 1 0 9 1 3	10/7/75	Kim, et al.;					
		5 2 0 8 2 4 0	5/4/93	Peet, et al.;					
		5 4 0 9 9 3 0	4/25/95	Spada, A.P. et al.;					
		5 5 1 6 8 9 4	5/14/96	Reppert, S.M.;					
		5 5 8 0 8 7 0	12/3/96	Barker, A.J. et al.;					
		5 6 3 9 9 1 3	6/17/97	Lidor et al.;					
		5 6 4 6 1 5 6	7/8/97	Jacobson et al.;					
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		5 7 1 4 4 9 3	2/3/98	Myers, M.R. et al.;					
		5 7 2 1 2 3 7	2/24/98	Myers, M.R. et al.;					
		5 7 4 7 4 9 8	5/5/98	Schnur, R.C. et al.;					
		5 7 8 0 4 5 0	7/14/98	Shade, D.L. et al.;					
		5 7 8 0 4 8 1	7/14/98	Jacobson et al.;					
		5 8 3 4 6 0 9	11/10/98	Horne, D.A. et al.;					
		5 8 7 7 2 1 8	3/2/99	Herzig et al.;					
		5 8 7 7 2 2 1	3/2/99	Cohen et al.;					
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		5 9 1 4 3 4 9	6/22/99	Cohen et al.;					
		5 9 6 2 4 5 8	10/5/99	Lohmann et al.;					
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		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation		
							Yes	No	
		WO 9 3 2 0 0 7 8	10/14/93	PCT;					
		WO 9 4 1 3 6 7 6	6/23/94	PCT;					
		WO 9 4 1 7 0 9 0	8/4/94	PCT;					

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



<b>Form PTO-1449</b>		<b>U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office</b>			Atty. Docket No. <b>60390-1A/JPW/GJG/JBC</b>		Serial No. <b>Not Yet Known</b>				
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)					Applicants: <b>Arlindo Castelhana et al.</b>						
					Filing Date <b>Herewith</b>		Group				
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>											
Examiner Initial		Document Number					Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>											
		Document Number					Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
											Yes    No
	GB	0	9	1	5	3 0 3	1/9/63	Great Britain;			
	DE	3	1	4	5	2 8 7	5/19/93	Germany;			
	IN	0	1	5	7	2 8 0	2/22/86	India;			
	JP	09	2	9	1	0 8 9	5/11/999	Japan;			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>											
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)						<b>Applicants: Arlindo Castelhana et al.</b>							
						<b>Filing Date</b> Herewith		<b>Group</b>					
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>													
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		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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		20	02	00	28	7	8	2	3/7/02	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 3, claims only);			
		20	02	00	58	6	6	7	5/16/02	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 4, claims only);			
		20	03	00	36	5	4	5	2/20/03	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 5, claims only);			
		20	02	00	94	9	7	4	4/17/03	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 6, claims only);			
		20	03	00	73	7	0	8	4/17/03	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 7, claims only);			
		09	4	5	4	0	7	4	12/2/99	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 8, claims only);			
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		10	0	1	0	0	9	2	11/30/01	Castelhana et al.;			
		20	03	00	45	5	3	6	3/6/03	Castelhana et al. (Exhibit 10, claims only);			
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		Document Number						Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
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